

From: lorddrayke@draykestower.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 4:05pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this hoping that many others who have been in a similar position on Microsoft throughout the years will do the same. I am relatively new to the computer industry, having bought my first computer in 1995, and as thus have little to no input for the times preceding this.

I have always been a curious and technically intuitive person and computers proved to follow the same pattern for me. I quickly learned to upgrade and eventually build new computers from their various components. I was oblivious to a great many things early on..... and am still oblivious to many this very day. There is one thing, above most others, I am grateful for becoming aware of during the last 2 years, And that is the behavior of a particular company.... Microsoft. I have been frustrated at the lack of stability, security in their products for many years.... but still find myself having to use them... Simply because there is no viable alternative.... They have preached time and again about how their next Operating System will be stable, or secure but still each subsequent operating system had it's major stability issues and security breeches. But I'm losing my train of thought.....

I recently (Nov-Dec 2001) read through the entire findings of fact in the Anti-trust Vs. Microsoft and was just absolutely astonished at the atrocious, and very harmful things they have done. I'm sure you have read through the findings of fact in the case so won't run through all the harm they have done Acting against those who either or indirectly went against their wishes.

I am far from an expert on market dynamics and antitrust laws, but there is one thing which I know. I know it just as I know my name, where I live, or my social security number. I know that the settlement in the antitrust case is not even close to nearing a punishment that will discourage further misdeeds. The establishment of the 3 person Technical Reviewer Board from what I have read has little to no power to actually enforce anything... And what most consider one of the more severe punishments.... The donation of 5 Billion in Computers and Software to the schools.... You know they are going to be donating Microsoft software whenever possible. Their Windows operating systems, MS Office products, and whatever else they can get in. So Let me get this straight..... their punishment is to expand their market share in an area that has traditionally been dominated by Apple? What kind of punishment is that? I can definitely understand why Apple is so distraught over the settlement.

The bottom line is that I feel Microsoft has been taking advantage of their monopoly position to overcharge the consumers for a very long time. Now they have been using it to maintain their dominance and the, ever so important, barrier to entry for any would be competitive technologies. The end result being for them to increase their market share in an area traditionally dominated by one of their only competitors as punishment...

I know I am only one person..... One consumer..... One citizen.....

But I for one am not pleased at this settlement.....

And I for one don't feel the best interests of the consumer were taken into consideration in this settlement.... Since this settlement will in no way hinder or discourage Microsoft from taking advantage of the consumers.

Thank you for your time,

Don Leger